

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The present amendment amends claims 1, 10 and 20, and cancels claims 9, 19, and 30. Accordingly, after the entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-18, and 20-29 will be pending. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

Claims 1-4 and 6-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or (e) as being anticipated by Mayahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,945), hereinafter "*Mayahara*" or Jensen et al. (U.S. No. 4,636,345), hereinafter "*Jensen*" in view of Kubota JP-54-03142, Kuraray, JP-56,125269, or Kuraray JP-59,8664.

Without acquiescing in the Examiner's grounds for rejection, or conceding the non-patentability of claims 1, 16, or 20, and solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of this application, claims 1, 10 and 20 have been amended to more particularly point out and particularly claim the present invention. Specifically, these claims have been amended to add the limitations of claim 30, which has been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, claims 1, 10, and 20 are allowable.

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 26-29 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 11-18 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 10 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

Claims 21-25 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 20 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 20.

Applicants submit that the application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to that effect.

Applicants notes for the second time that two of the foreign references (DE 1 279 918 and CH 630 131) that were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 11, 2001 were not considered by the Examiner as indicated by the striking through of these references on the PTO/SB/08A form returned with the present Office Action. Applicants presume that the references were not considered since they were in a foreign language. Applicants wish to point out that in accordance with 609 of the MPEP (See Page 600-122 of the August 2001 version of the MPEP) that the applicants have satisfied their requirements for a concise explanation of the relevance of these non-English language references by submitting the English language version of the Search Report with the Information Disclosure Statement identifying these references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request an indication from the Examiner that these references have been considered.

The present Amendment was not earlier presented because the applicants believed that the prior amendment had placed the application in a condition for allowance. The present Amendment does not raise any new issues and does not require any further searching on the part of the Examiner. It is believed that the present Amendment places the application in a condition for allowance. Entry is therefore respectfully solicited and applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978 -- a duplicate of the Amendment Transmittal is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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